



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

JUNE 2012 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

City Administrator

Vincent E. Jones

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

3rd Annual Seat Pleasant Health Summit Brings Together Multi-Generational Community Members; Making History at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health

On Friday May 11, 2012 Mayor Eugene W. Grant along with the University of Maryland Prevention Research Center at the School of Public Health hosted about 50 students from Central High School, 50 students from Fairmont Heights High School, and 50 local area senior citizens for the 3rd Annual Seat Pleasant Health Summit at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health.

In the morning opening remarks Dr. Dushanka Kleinman, Associate Dean for the University of Maryland's School of Public Health stated with pride "This crowd represents wisdom, youth, energy and hope". For the first time, Mayor Eugene W. Grant was able to bring his local community members to the University's campus to have a real discussion between those in the community with the least amount of health resources and the School of Public Health's Professors, PhD's, and graduate students. The Health Summit's sessions were focused on increasing knowledge of growing health issues in Prince George's County and what health resources are available. Health mini-workshops which were held in rotation covered: diabetes, exercise, hypertension, periodontal disease, HIV/STD's and proper nutrition.

After the workshop sessions on the health issues mentioned earlier, the students and seniors participated in a "clicker activity" and open mic session. High school teens and senior citizens were given a "clicker" and were asked health questions relevant to their environment, community and county. The results of each answer were immediately shown on a screen so attendees could get a firsthand look at how important data gathering is and how it can be used to help understand the overall health in our County.



The open mic session was led by Mayor Eugene W. Grant and the overall question and goal for discussion was asked of all participants; "How can we take what we've learned to help residents in Seat Pleasant?" Many hands went up in the audience once this question was posed. One student even touched upon the topic of safe sex versus abstinence, which is a topic every Prince Georges County teenager has to face. It was also brought up by senior citizens that their community has increasingly become sexually active. "Thanks to this health summit, I was able to learn a lot about safe sex," stated James Hall, a 12th grader at Central High School, "Because of this on campus experience, I want to attend University of Maryland in the fall," concluded James.

"This 3rd Annual Seat Pleasant Health Summit provided a much needed service to those in our community who are most adversely affected by health disparities and lack of health resources," stated Mayor Eugene W. Grant, "This annual event will only continue to grow in number of community attendance and in our reach with other State partners. Our community's relationship with one of the top Universities in the nation gives us a

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(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

chance to work together and improve the quality of life for our local area seniors and youth. These are two populations most adversely affected by the lack of health resources in our County. This health summit gave us a chance to empower those who need it most and we will continue to look for opportunities to do so." concluded Mayor Grant.

This event was sponsored by the City of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence, Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States, University of Maryland School of Public Health, and University of Maryland Prevention Research Center.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of May



Resolution R-12-15

Resolution of the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant Approving Position Descriptions for Positions within the following Departments of the City of Seat Pleasant: Public Works, Police, Finance, Community Services, and City Administration, and approving positions for the City Clerk and the Police Administrative Assistant.

Resolution R-12-16

Resolution of the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland Adopting A Strategic Plan for the City of Seat Pleasant; to achieve its visions, the Mayor and the City Council established six Key Strategic Priorities for Fiscal Year 2012-2013, namely to manage City resources in an open, transparent and fiscally sound manner; to enhance the City's public safety to reduce crime and improve the perception of the community; to improve educational outcomes by partnering with local schools; to increase focus on economic development to attract and retain quality businesses and community organizations; to remain a sustainable City of Excellence and promote Seat Pleasant as a safe and green community; and to strengthen and improve community programs that will educate our citizens; and to achieve these Priorities the Mayor and City Council created goals and an implementation plan; and the Vision for the City of Seat Pleasant, Key Strategic Priorities, the Goals and Implementation Plan, among other items, are incorporated in the Strategic Plan for the City of Seat Pleasant, which the Council desires to adopt.

Ordinance O-12-14

FOR the purpose of amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget for the Public Works Department..

Ordinance O-12-15

FOR the purpose of amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget for Mid-Year Budget Adjustments for the City of Seat Pleasant.

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at: City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE TO CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

In accordance with the City of Seat Pleasant City Charter, candidate applications and registered voter petitions, which shall include the names and signatures of at least 20 registered voters in the City of Seat Pleasant, must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk by **5:00 PM ON TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Once voter qualifications have been verified, qualified candidates will be notified of certification to run for the petitioned office.

Section C-610. Nominations

Candidates for election to the office of Councilmember or Mayor shall file with the Board of Election Supervisors a petition signed by at least 20 registered voters of the City of Seat Pleasant at least sixty (60) days (including Sundays and holidays) prior to the date of such election. Such petition shall state (1) the name and address of the candidate, (2) the fact that such person is eligible for election to the office of Councilmember or Mayor and (3) that such person wishes his name placed on the ballot as candidate. Such petition shall be sworn to by the person filing same, both as to the fact of the candidate's eligibility and as to the genuineness of the signatures of such petition. No person shall be eligible for

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elective City public office who has not fulfilled the requirements of this section. No candidate shall file for election for more than one City public office at any one election.

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS

The City of Seat Pleasant is seeking interested parties to the Board of Election Supervisors. In accordance with the Seat Pleasant City Charter the duties of the Board of Elections are listed below. The interested parties shall submit a letter of interest and resume to the Office of the Mayor **IMMEDIATELY**. The positions are opened until filled.

Section C-605. Duties

The Board of Supervisors of Elections shall be in charge of the registration of voters, nominations, and all City elections. The Board may appoint election clerks or other employees to assist it in any of its duties.

All submissions for consideration **MUST** be filed in the **office of the Mayor**, Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

A WORD FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT KELLY PORTER THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD RECORD KEEPING



An important part of keeping your finances in order is the way you keep your records. Good records and documentation are essential to know where you stand. Even if you run into problems and need a loan, if your books are in order, your bank may be more inclined to extend you credit. Good record keeping is a large part of good management. Well kept record keeping is a large part of good management. Well kept records will make it much easier for you to file your estimated and year end tax payments.

It is best if you keep your business and personal funds separate. A business checking account and business only credit card will help you avoid having to go through your monthly statements to pull out business related totals.

You should keep a daily record of your sales and cash receipts as well as all payments. Your weekly records should include accounts receivable, accounts payable, and payroll. Every month you should work up a profit-and-loss statement, create your balance sheet, reconcile your bank statement, pay any taxes due, and do inventory control. There are many software packages on the market to help you with record keeping duties. If you have a personal computer, you may find one of these packages a good investment in your business.

Post your accounting information, and act on that information. The numbers will give you a great deal of data, and you should work with these figures to make your business successful. For example, when you work up your weekly accounts receivable information, call those people who have not paid their bills on time. When working on your profit-and-loss statement, figure out what is causing your losses and work out solutions. Keeping on top of these situations will prevent you from running into trouble at the end of the year.

Although keeping thorough records of all transactions is important, you should also be sure to keep all receipts and invoices. They will serve as a check and balance to your records and should assist you if things don't add up.

In the months to come Councilman Porter will provide more financial advice for residents.

A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN ELENORA SIMMS WARD I MEETING

On Saturday, June 16, between 1 and 3 p.m. I will be hosting a Ward I Meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers for Ward I Residents. Pizza will be served so be sure to R.S.V.P. (301-655-6550) so I can get a head count of those who plan to attend and to ensure there are enough refreshments.

SEAT PLEASANT SUMMER BOOK DRIVE



Please help us promote summer reading for our children ages 5 - 13 by purchasing a book to donate. We would like to give free books and books that will be distributed on a bi-weekly basis depending on the amount of materials. We will also be having a storytime in Goodwin Park in August. The date and time for the storytime is to be determined so look for more details in upcoming newsletters. Please contact me directly with any questions at 301-655-6559.



A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNIE HIGGS, SR.

Greeting Neighbors,

First, I just wanted to take the time to say thank you for your support of my appointment in February as Councilmember At-Large. I look forward to working for you, with the Mayor and Councilmembers. My plan is to attend each Ward meeting along with your respective Ward Representative. I am available at any time for your concerns and can be reached at 240-504-3592. I remain, "A man of the Community with the Community at Heart."

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT TWO OF SEAT PLEASANT'S FINEST RECEIVE TOP HONORS

On Thursday, April 26th two Seat Pleasant Police Officers received top honors from the Prince George's County Police Association. The event was held at the Glenarden Gold Room in Glenarden Maryland. Corporal Jamie Matthews was named Seat Pleasant Officer of the Year by the association and Sergeant Todd Busby was awarded Community Officer of the Year. We wish to congratulate them for being recognized for their hard work and dedication to Seat Pleasant and Prince George's County.

BLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD FOR METROBUS CENTRAL AVENUE LINE EVALUATION

Metro to Discuss Potential Transit Improvement with Riders and the Community

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), in cooperation with Prince George's County and the Maryland Department of Transportation, are currently working on an evaluation of Metrobus Routes C21, C22, C26, and C29 (the Central Avenue Line) and Route C28 (the Pointer Ridge Line). To obtain input from riders and community members about service improvements, two public meetings will be held in June.

The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, from 5 pm to 7 pm, at the City of Seat Pleasant City Hall in the Council Chambers, 6301 Addison Road, in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. The building is very close to the Addison Road-Seat Pleasant Metro Station, on the other side of Central Avenue.

The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, from 5 pm to 7 pm, at Largo-Kettering Public Library, 9601 Capital Lane, in Largo. The library is near Largo Town Center Metro Station, south of Central Avenue off Harry S Truman Drive.

Both meetings are open to all members of the public, and no advance registration is required. The meetings will be "open house" style, meaning that participants may arrive any time between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. No presentation will be given; instead, maps and other study materials will be displayed, and participants will be able to speak individually with the project team about improvement options that are now being evaluated.

Metro is relying on feedback from participants so that the options can be refined and recommendations can be made to the WMATA Board in late summer of 2012.

The facilities are handicapped-accessible. To request special accommodations, or to arrange for a Spanish translator at the meetings, please send an e-mail to info@metrobus-studies.com before June 7, 2012.

The two Metrobus lines being evaluated currently have around 3,000 passengers on an average weekday, one of the largest Metrobus riderships in Maryland. The Central Avenue Line serves residents of Seat Pleasant and Largo between Addison Road-Seat Pleasant Metro Station and Crain Highway via Largo Town Center. The C28 runs between Pointer Ridge and New Carrollton Metro Station via U.S. Route 50.

WMATA and its partner agencies in the Washington metropolitan region have been studying service and operations on the Metrobus network's busiest lines since 2006, and making gradual improvements including restructured routes, limited-stop services, and other enhancements.

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(PUBLIC MEETINGS CONTINUED)

If you would like more information about this subject, please call WMATA's Office of Median Relations on the Media Line at 202-962-2007.

A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Proper Lawn Maintenance.

All property owners with grass exceeding 8 inches will have 72 hours to cut the grass. If the grass has not been cut within that time frame, then a municipal infraction in the amount of 50 dollars will be issued. For unoccupied properties who do not cut the grass within the time frame, the city will cut the grass and the cost will be assessed against the property. Remember to cut the weeds and grass that may grow up on your fence line. Property owners with backyards or side yards abutting a street and alleys in the City, are responsible for cutting the grass between their property line and the adjacent street.

Vehicles-

IMPC: 302.8- Motor Vehicles- Which states that except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Vehicles must be parked on asphalt, concrete, gravel, brick stone or any non-porous material; vehicles shall not be parked on the grass. Existing gravel driveways must be maintained with no grass growing through. All vehicles within the city of Seat Pleasant need to be properly licensed within the State of Maryland.

Insert Screens-

During May 1 to September 30th every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, food preparation areas, and food services are to be supplied with tightly fitting screens of not less than 16 mesh per inch.

A WORD FROM CPAC - TELEPHONE SCAM ALERT

My mom was recently a victim of a scam artist and she didn't even know it. She received a call from a young man who started the call with "Grandma." Unknowingly, she said her grandson's name because it sounded just like him. He said yes, it was he, and that he needed \$2,300 right away because he was ok but had been in a car accident. She asked if his mother (her daughter) knew and he said no, he didn't want to tell her because he knew she would be upset. My mom then said "I'm sorry but Grandma doesn't have that kind of money." All of a sudden there was a click. He hung up as soon as she said those words. She then became really upset, thinking something was wrong and he was in trouble, and called her daughter. My sister surprised her by saying that her son was right there with her and none of that was true. It turns out that this was a scam that is pretty common - and very successful - among the elderly. I'm thankful that he wasn't successful this time. This particular scam artist was greedy in asking for a large amount of money; but what if it had been for far less? My fear is that if it had been \$20, \$50, or even \$100, she wouldn't have thought twice and sent the money.

So, why do I bring this up? Because it's a public safety issue and I don't want you to become a victim. It is deplorable that people would prey on the elderly and take advantage of their natural generosity and vulnerability. I urge anyone receiving a call from someone asking for money to help a grandchild to put their nurturing instincts aside long enough to verify that the person is truly calling on behalf of a loved one. Don't automatically assume you know who the caller is - let that person give you his/her name. Don't send anyone money - in any form - unless you know who it is. It is so easy to become a victim and we often think that it will never happen to us. But it can. Beware, these scam artists have perfected their craft and they are waiting for the opportunity to get to you.

Help us help you. If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com.

A WORD FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

REPLACEMENT LIGHTING IN CITY BUILDINGS

The City was able to obtain a lighting grant. This grant will allow the City Hall building to utilize energy saving LED lights. These LED lights will save the City money by lowering the usage of electricity. The replacement of lights is scheduled to start soon.

TREE LIMB REMOVAL

Please keep the following rules in mind when bundling tree limbs. Bates Trash Policy for picking up tree limbs is that they are bagged and the bags tied up if possible. No limbs longer than 3 feet. If the limbs are not able to be bagged they should be tied together. Do not mix tree limbs with any other items. Please place the items out on curbside for Wednesday pick up.

PEPCO REPLACING UTILITY POLES

Pepco is replacing utility poles on Seat Pleasant Drive. Please be mindful that they will be working on replacing the poles and may have streets blocked during the installation of new electrical poles while cutting trees and tree limbs back. They have already started replacing some poles on Addison Road and will be placing additional poles along Addison Road. Please conform to all safety signs as these will ensure the safety of residents and workers.

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT

An **IMPORTANT MESSAGE** brought to you by the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company and Columbia Gas of Kentucky

CARBON MONOXIDE INFORMATION

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless, non-corrosive gas made up of one part carbon and one part oxygen. It can be a by-product of the combustion of ordinary fuels. CO is relatively harmless in open spaces, but very poisonous if allowed to accumulate. A malfunctioning appliance can create a hazard.

BE ALERT TO THE DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE

Whenever combustion takes place without sufficient oxygen, carbon monoxide is produced. Since less fresh air is entering homes today due to conservation measures, it's doubly important to be alert to the dangers of improper venting.

CARBON MONOXIDE ISN'T NATURAL GAS

It can be produced if natural gas doesn't burn and vent properly. Carbon monoxide is also produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. This can happen if your gas appliance or fuel-burning device isn't properly maintained or adjusted. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous. Other CO sources include vehicle exhaust, blocked chimney flues, fuel-burning cooking appliances used improperly for heating purposes, and charcoal grills used in the home, tent, camper, garage or other unventilated area.

SYMPTOMS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Carbon monoxide may cause any or all of the following symptoms – headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, irregular breathing, rapid heartbeat, ringing in the ears, seeing spots, fatigue, confusion, memory loss, loss of coordination, blurred vision, feeling ill or tired at home but fine when away from home, loss of consciousness, coma and eventually seizures, cardiac arrest and respiratory failure. Other household symptoms include stuffy, foul-smelling or stale air, the smell of exhaust fumes, a yellow/orange flame on gas ranges, furnace or water heater burners, soot around outside of chimney, furnace or water heater flue vent or fireplace and large areas of condensation of water vapor on walls or windows.

WHAT TO DO:

Your gas furnace and water heating equipment should be serviced regularly to ensure they are working properly, efficiently and safely. This includes proper venting of exhaust gases. In a tightly sealed home, you may need to install fresh air inlets and exhaust fans to supply the circulation needed for combustion. Carbon monoxide detectors, available at numerous hardware, home and variety stores, are just as important as smoke detectors. But they are not foolproof, so the choice is up to you. Know how to prevent carbon monoxide.

Follow these simple guidelines if you think you have a carbon monoxide problem in your home.

1. Leave the area and call... if your detector alarm sounds and you are experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, leave your home and immediately call your local emergency services number or 911.

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(CARBON MONOXIDE CONTINUED)

poisoning, leave your home and immediately call your local emergency services number or 911.

2. If you have no symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning... and your detector alarm sounds first check the detector. Push the reset button (if available), turn off any appliances or other sources of combustion. Get fresh air to the building and check for sources of carbon monoxide. Adjust, repair or replace your appliances as needed by calling a qualified service or repair company

Always call ... if you think you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and you do not have a detector, leave your home and immediately call your local emergency services number or 911.

PREVENTATIVE SAFETY TIPS

- Purchase carbon monoxide detectors.
 - Be sure all fuel-burning equipment is installed, adjusted and operating properly.
 - Have appliances installed by a professional, and carefully follow manufacturer instructions.
 - Do not cut off or restrict combustion air sources to appliances.
 - Equipment should be inspected regularly by a professional heating or appliance contractor.
 - Provide adequate ventilation in the house when using stoves, fireplaces or unvented space heaters.
 - Never burn charcoal indoors or in an enclosed space.
 - Clean chimney and check for blockage, especially with wood burning fireplaces and stoves.
- Open garage door before starting vehicle.

CITY HOSTS TWO COMMUNITY EVENTS IN MAY

SEAT PLEASANT DAY

On Saturday, May 5, the City of Seat Pleasant held its Annual Seat Pleasant Day in Goodwin Park. The opening ceremony at City Hall kicked off the festivities followed by a parade including Charles Flowers High School Band and Largo High School Band. After the parade the bands engaged in an impromptu "battle of the bands" to the delight of onlookers. There were activities for residents of all ages from a puppet show by Blue Sky Puppet Theater for children to bingo for the seniors and a basketball tournament for the youth. There were food vendors and others selling their wares and non-profit organizations dispensing information. The University of Maryland hosted a health fair that included health screenings. Live entertainment for all ages included a zumba demonstration, a performance by "Youante" as well as gospel group "Because of Christ" and rhythm and blues by "Diversified Band". Seat Pleasant Day had something for everyone.



POLICE OPEN HOUSE



The other event held by the Seat Pleasant Police Department and Code Enforcement was a Police Open House held on Saturday, May 19 in the Addison Plaza front parking lot. The event was held in an effort to make our municipal government accessible by and to our residents. There were activities for the children and free food and drinks for participants. Crime statistics were provided for attendees, the Child ID Program was available as well as a sign up for Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Residents were invited to ask questions and share questions and suggestions. Several State and County agencies were on hand as well to provide information.

TWO SEAT PLEASANT RESIDENTS RECIPIENTS OF ENERGY GRANT

Earlier this year the City of Seat Pleasant partnered with the City of Bladensburg and was awarded a grant by the Maryland Energy Administration to provide weatherization/energy efficiency retrofits. The grant funding was to be divided equally among participating municipalities. Audits were conducted by the Maryland Energy Administration and two houses were selected from each municipality which fell within the guidelines for the program. Two homes from the City of Seat Pleasant were selected to be a part of the program - the homes of Saundria Parker and Thomas and Jean Swinney. We congratulate them on their selection.



City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH



Trayvon Wright (2nd from the right) pictured with his father, is seen here with Mayor Eugene Grant Councilman Darrell Hardy and Chief Melvin High. He is holding one of his recent works.

Aspiring artist Trevon Wright is a talented young man who is already on the way to becoming recognized for his talent. He is a student at Suitland High School of Visual and Performing Arts where he is developing his considerable talent. Keep up the good work Trayvon!